

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning on column 1, line 29 and ending on column 1, line 42 with the following amended paragraph:

An object this invention is to overcome the problem of using both hands to lock the pliers. This allows the user to perform other tasks with a free hand prior to and during the gripping and locking of the pliers. The invention overcomes this problem and others by providing pliers that allow for a single hand to hold and lock pliers. The locking mechanism comprises an arc shaped surface connected to one handle, and a hinged pressure contact on the other handle. The user uses a free finger on the hand gripping the pliers to pull a lever on the pressure [contract] contact to engage the pressure contact with the arc shaped surface. The contact transfers pressure to the jaws of the pliers to better hold an item in the jaws, while friction at the contact point keeps the handle with the pressure contact from moving with respect to the arc surface.

Please delete the entire text from column 1, line 62 to column 3, line 27 and enter the following text in lieu thereof:

Referring to Figures 1 through 3 of the drawings, there is illustrated a hand tool 10 for gripping the head 11 of a bolt generally including a first elongated member 12, a second elongated member 13 and a lever 13. Elongated members 12 and 13 are connected together by a pin 14 for pivotal movement about an axis A. Elongated member 12 includes a handle portion 14 disposed on a first side of axis A, a jaw portion 15 disposed on the other side of axis A and offset relative to handle portion 14 and a portion 16 projecting laterally of handle portion 14, providing an arcuate bearing surface 16a disposed coaxially relative to axis A. Elongated member 13 includes a handle portion 17 disposed on one side of axis A and terminating at a point spaced from bearing surface 16a and a jaw portion 18 disposed on the other side of axis A and offset relative to handle portion 17.

Lever member 13 includes a main body portion 19 connected to the lower end of handle portion 17 by means of a pin 20 for pivotal movement about an axis B, a finger engaging segment 21 at an upper end thereof and a slot 22 at a lower end thereof disposed substantially radially relative to axis B. Disposed in slot 22 and displaceable along the length thereof is a contact member 23 projecting beyond recess 22 and having a rounded end portion 24 engageable with arcuate bearing surface 16a. The position of contact member 23 within slot 22, relative to main body portion 19, may be fixed by means of a set screw 25 threaded through main body portion 19 and bearing on the contact member.

By means of set screw 25, the position of contact member 23 relative to main body portion 19 of the lever member is fixed so that the sum of the radial dimension from axis A to axis B and the radial dimension of axis B to the rounded tip of contact member 13 is greater than the radial dimension from axis A to arcuate bearing surface 16a. Under such arrangement, when

the lever member is in the condition as shown in Figure 1, the handle portions of the elongated members may be grasped by a hand of the user and displaced relative to each other, and when the lever member is in the condition as shown in Figure 3 substantially in longitudinal alignment with the handle portion of member 13, contact member 23 will engage arcuate bearing surface 16a in wedging relation, precluding the further angular displacement of the elongated members.

In the use of hand tool 10 to grip head portion 11 of a bolt, with lever member 13 in the position shown in Figure 1, and not in longitudinal alignment with handle portion 17, the handle portions of the elongated members are grasped by the hand of the user and head portion 11 is caused to be gripped by the jaw portions of the elongated members as shown in Figure 1. To lock the jaw portions of the members in gripping relations with head portion 11 of the bolt, the lower fingers of the grasping hand are caused to engage upper segment 21 of the lever member and pivot the lever member about axis B. As the lever member thus pivots, the outer rounded end of the contact member is caused to engage arcuate bearing surface 16a in wedging relation to thus fix the angular position of handle portion 17 relative to handle portion 14. When it is desired to release the bolt head, the upper segment of the lever member is pivoted away from handle portion 17 to move contact member 23 out of wedging relation with arcuate bearing surface 16a.

Figures 4 through 6 illustrate another embodiment of the invention consisting of a handle tool 30 including a first elongated member 31, a jaw member 32 connected to elongated member 31 by means of a pin 33 for pivotal movement about an axis A, an elongated member 34 connected to elongated member 31 by means of a pin 35 for pivotal movement about an axis B and a lever member 36 connected to a lower end of elongated member 34 by means of a pin 37 for pivotal movement about an axis C. Elongated member 31 includes a handle portion 38 disposed on one side of axis B and a jaw portion 39 on the other side of axis B, and a portion 40

projecting laterally from handle portion 38, providing an arcuate bearing surface 40a disposed coaxially relative to axis B. As best shown in Figure 6, jaw member 32 is pivotal about pin 33 to cooperate with jaw portion 39 of elongated member 31 to grip an article therebetween. It further is provided with a gear sector portion 41 disposed coaxially with axis A. Elongated member 34 is similar to elongated member 13 and includes a handle portion 42 and a gear sector portion 42 disposed coaxially with axis B and meshing with gear sector portion of 41 of jaw member 32. Lever member 36 is similar in construction and operation to lever member 13 and includes a main body portion 43 provided with an upper, finger engaging segment 44 and a lower opening slot 45 accommodating a contact member 46.

Similarly to the embodiment shown in Figures 1 through 3, the sum of the radial dimension from axis B to axis C and the radial dimension from axis C to the end of contact member 46 is greater than the radial dimension from axis B to arcuate bearing surface 40a so that when the lever member is in the position as shown in Figure 4, elongated member 34 may be angularly displaced relative to elongated member 31 to cause jaw member 32 to angularly displace relative to jaw portion 39, and when the lever member is pivoted into substantially longitudinal alignment with elongated member 42 contact member 46 will wedgingly engage bearing surface 40a to preclude the further angular displacement of elongated member 42 relative to elongated member 31 and correspondingly the displacement of jaw member 32 relative to jaw portion 39.

The embodiment shown in Figures 4 through 6 may be operated in the same manner as described in connection with the embodiment shown in Figures 1 through 3. The user may simply grasp the elongated members of the tool and angularly displace them relative to each other to grip an object between jaw member 32 and jaw portion 39, and then engage segment 44

of the lever member to cause the contact member to engage the bearing surface and thus lock the jaws in gripping relation with the article therebetween.

In either of the embodiments described, only a single hand of the user is required to first grip an article such as a bolt head, pipe, rod or other article to be manipulated, and then lock the jaws in gripping relation with the article simply by engaging and pivoting the lever member with one or more of the lower fingers. The same lower fingers may also be used to unlock the jaws by pivoting the lever in the opposite direction.

The embodiments of the invention as described may be formed either from plate or flat metal stock or castings. The assembly of the embodiments may be accomplished simply by pivotally connecting the various components together, inserting the contact member in the lever member and adjusting the projection of the contact member with the set screw.

From the foregoing detailed description, it will be evident that there are a number of changes, adaptations and modifications of the present invention, which come within the province of those persons having ordinary skill in the art to which the aforementioned invention pertains. However, it is intended that all such variations not departing from the spirit of the invention be considered as within the scope thereof as limited solely by the appended claims.